ᑲᑐᑎᓗᒍ ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᐱᕈᖅᐸᓕᐊᑎᓪᓗᒍ
Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

The Creation of Nunavut

1973 - Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) begins a study of Inuit land use and occupancy. This study forms the geographic basis of the Nunavut territory.

1976 - ITC proposes the creation of a Nunavut territory as part of a comprehensive settlement of Inuit land claims in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Nunavut proposal calls for the Beaufort Sea and Yukon North Slope areas used by the Inuvialuit to be included in the Nunavut territory.

1980 - At its annual general meeting in October, ITC delegates unanimously pass a resolution calling for the creation of Nunavut.

1990 - Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN) and representatives of the federal and territorial governments sign a land claims agreement-in-principle. The agreement supports the division of the NWT and provides for a plebiscite on boundaries.

1992 - TFN and government negotiators agree on substantive portions of a land claims agreement. An overall majority of voters approve the proposed boundary for division in a plebiscite. TFN and government representatives sign the Nunavut Political Accord, setting the creation of Nunavut as April 1, 1999. In November, in a Nunavut-wide vote, the Inuit of Nunavut ratify the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

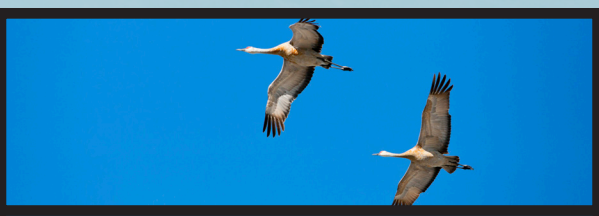
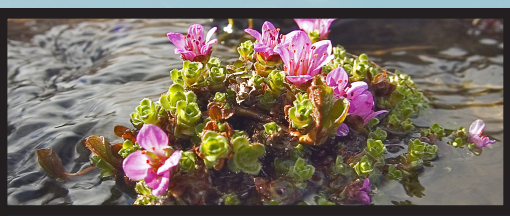
1993 - The NLCA is signed. The NLCA Act and the Nunavut Act are adopted by Canadian Parliament and receive Royal Assent.

1995/1996 - Footprints in New Snow and Footprints II, documents written by the Nunavut Implementation Commission, recommend certain headquarters and regional functions of the Nunavut government be decentralized to communities. Footprints II is used as the blueprint for the foundation of the Government of Nunavut.

1997 - The Office of the Interim Commissioner is established to help prepare for the creation of Nunavut. It is responsible for setting up an operational government ready to function effectively on April 1, 1999.

1998 - Amendments to the Nunavut Act are adopted by Parliament and receive Royal Assent July 9, 1999.

1999 - The Nunavut territory and government come into existence on April 1, 1999.

For more information about Nunavut, please
contact the Government of Nunavut communications.
(867) 975-6000